

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A raincoat for preventing a user from becoming wet by  
5 rainfall, and also for preventing at least one item which is  
being carried by the user from becoming wet by rainfall, said  
user having a body having a head having a back and a top of  
the head, having a face having a chin, a neck, a torso, two  
arms each having a hand, and two legs each having a foot,  
10 said raincoat to be selectively worn over the existing  
clothing of the user, comprising:

a front, a back, a top, a bottom, two opposing  
lateral sides, an internally oriented surface which contacts  
15 the body of the user while the raincoat is being worn by the  
user, an externally oriented surface substantially  
constructed from a waterproof material, a chest portion for  
completely shielding the torso of the user from rainfall, and  
a leg portion for completely shielding the legs of the user  
20 from rainfall; and

a single sleeve extending from one of the lateral  
sides of the raincoat in proximity to the top of the  
raincoat, through which one of the arms of the user  
25 selectively extends, said sleeve for selectively preventing  
said arm of the user from becoming wet by rainfall, and  
wherein the arm which is not extended through the sleeve

remains within and is covered by the raincoat, thereby shielding said arm and the hand attached to said arm from rainfall, and thereby allowing the user to carry the at least one item within said hand and thereby also prevent the at  
5 least one item from becoming wet from rainfall.

2. The raincoat as recited in claim 1, further comprising a selectively sealable arm opening positioned in proximity to the top of the lateral side of the raincoat opposed to the  
10 lateral side from which the sleeve extends, said arm opening for enabling the user to retrieve the at least one item carried by the arm and the hand of the user which do not extend through the sleeve by using the hand of the arm which does extend through the sleeve.

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3. The raincoat as recited in claim 2, wherein the external surface of the raincoat has a chest pocket opening and a pants pocket opening, for allowing the user to access the existing clothing of the user without having to fully open  
20 the raincoat and thereby expose the body of the user to rainfall.

4. The raincoat as recited in claim 3, wherein the back of the raincoat has a hood compartment, in proximity to the  
25 collar, having a hood selectively stored therein, the hood for selectively covering the back and top of the head of the user, and also for substantially covering the neck of the

user, thereby protecting the neck and head of the user from becoming wet by rainfall.

5 5. The raincoat as recited in claim 4, wherein the front of the raincoat has a substantially centrally located, vertically oriented zipper, extending from the top to the bottom of the raincoat, for allowing the user to selectively close the raincoat during use.

10 6. The raincoat as recited in claim 5, wherein the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening each have an associated flap for selectively covering said openings, for preventing rainfall from entering into the raincoat.

15 7. The raincoat as recited in claim 6, wherein the zipper has an associated zipper flap which selectively overlays the zipper, thereby preventing rainfall from entering the raincoat through the zipper.

20 8. The raincoat as recited in claim 7, wherein the flaps associated with the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening each have a strip of fastening material attached thereunto, and wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat has corresponding strips of fastening material  
25 suitably positioned for selectively engaging the strips of fastening material on said flaps, in order to create a

waterproof seal when said flaps are used to cover the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening.

9. The raincoat as recited in claim 8, wherein the zipper  
5 flap has a strip of fastening material running along a portion of its length, and wherein the raincoat has a strip of fastening material in proximity to the zipper flap for selectively engaging the fastening material on the zipper flap after the zipper flap has been overlaid upon the zipper.

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10. The raincoat as recited in claim 9, wherein the hood compartment has a zipper for selectively closing the hood compartment when the hood is being stored therein.

15 11. The raincoat as recited in claim 10, wherein the raincoat is substantially full-length, and covers the user substantially from the neck to the feet of the user, with the exception of the hands of the user.

20 12. The raincoat as recited in claim 11, wherein the hood has a substantially oval face opening through which the face of the user protrudes during use, wherein the face opening has an elastic strip around its perimeter, thereby ensuring that the head of the user remains dry even during very heavy  
25 rainfall.

13. The raincoat as recited in claim 12, wherein the hood is equipped with a chinstrap for selectively firmly anchoring the hood to the chin and head of the user.

5 14. The raincoat as recited in claim 13, further comprising a substantially circular collar which substantially encircles the neck of the user while the raincoat is being worn.

10 15. The raincoat as recited in claim 14, wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat is substantially constructed from a vinyl material.

15 16. The raincoat as recited in claim 14, wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat is substantially constructed from a plastic material.

17. A method of protecting both the person of a user and at least one item carried within a hand of the user from becoming wet by rainfall, said user having a body having a head having a face having a chin, a neck, a torso, two arms each having a hand, and two legs each having a lower part and each having a foot, said user carrying at least one item within one of the hands of the user, said method utilizing a raincoat having a front, a back, a top, a bottom, two  
20 opposing lateral sides, an externally oriented surface, and a single sleeve extending from one of the lateral sides in proximity to the top of the raincoat, the raincoat further

having an arm opening positioned in proximity to the top of the lateral side of the raincoat opposed to the lateral side from which the sleeve extends, a chest pocket opening, and a pants pocket opening, wherein the chest pocket opening and  
5 the pants pocket opening each have an associated flap having a strip of fastening material attached thereunto, and wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat has corresponding strips of fastening material suitably positioned for selectively engaging the strips of fastening  
10 material on said flaps, wherein the front of the raincoat has a zipper having an associated zipper flap having a strip of fastening material, wherein the raincoat has a strip of fastening material in proximity to the zipper flap, wherein the back of the raincoat has a hood compartment having a hood  
15 having a chinstrap selectively stored therein, said method comprising the steps of:

extending one of the arms of the user through the sleeve;

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covering the body of the user from the neck substantially to the feet with the raincoat;

closing the zipper on the front of the raincoat in order  
25 to completely cover and protect the torso and legs of the user from falling rain;

overlaying the zipper flap over the zipper;

securing the zipper flap by mating the fastening  
material on the zipper flap with the corresponding strip of  
5 fastening material on the raincoat;

closing the chest pocket opening, the pants pocket  
opening, and the arm opening with their associated flaps;

10 securing said flaps by mating the fastening material of  
the flaps with the corresponding strips of fastening material  
located on the raincoat;

extending the hood of the raincoat over the head of the  
15 user in order to protect the head and also the neck of the  
user from falling rain;

securing the chinstrap underneath the chin of the user;

20 carrying the at least one item within the hand and arm  
of the user which does not extend through the sleeve, while  
shielding the at least one item by the raincoat;

retrieving an item carried by the arm and hand of the  
25 user which are shielded underneath the raincoat, by  
disengaging the fastening material of the flap associated  
with the arm opening from the underlying strip of fastening

material on the raincoat, by extending the arm which is covered by the sleeve through the arm opening, and by using the hand attached to said arm to grasp and retrieve the at least one item; and

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walking during periods of rain without exposing either the body or the at least one item held by the user to rainfall.